

BLOOMFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

ADMINISTRATION & EDUCATION SUBCOMMITTEE

There was a regular meeting for the above-referenced subcommittee held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, January 7, 2013 in Conference Room #5, Bloomfield Town Hall, 800 Bloomfield Avenue, Bloomfield, CT.

Committee members present were: Councilor Rivers, Gamble and DeLorenzo

Also present were: Mayor Schulman, Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager, India M. Rodgers, Clerk of Council, Naomi Cohen, Barry Berson

Absent: Deputy Mayor Hypolite, Wayne Casper

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m.

Update on all School Building Committees

High School – Mr. Wayne Casper was not present to report on the status of the high school.

Carmen Arace – Mr. Barry Berson, Chair of CAMS Building Committee reported that a final meeting is needed to completely close the project and address outstanding contractor bills.

Elementary Schools

Mrs. Naomi Cohen, Chair of the Elementary School Building Committee also reported that both building have been completed and are occupied. The design plans and approvals for the playground is still a work in progress. The State of Connecticut – Bureau of Schools moved the date for approval to possibly to end of March, 2013. The committee is seeking approval from the State for the installation of surfacing and equipment purchase.

The committee has also had brief discussions regarding security features at the elementary schools since the Newtown tragedy on December 14, 2012.

Mrs. Cohen also discussed the dispute regarding the architectural grade of materials used during renovations. The higher quality grade was installed and the construction company would like to be paid for the higher priced items without prior consultation and approval from the building

committee. The committee has not paid as of yet and will continue to negotiate the best outcome.

The committee is also looking to establish costs for the purchase of generators for the elementary schools.

Administrative Report from the Town Manager

Mr. Louie Chapman, Jr., Town Manager reported that the budget process has begun. Mr. Chapman, Jr., and the Director of Finance continue to work on finalizing the refunding of bonds. With the fiscal cliff debate, the interest rates have increased slightly. Town Administration gave a target number of \$600,000 in savings they would like to see in this refunding. The financial team will try to make the sale based on this number. In addition, bond anticipation notes will be sold to finish the last temporary financing on the schools.

Mr. Chapman reminded the committee about the Council Retreat, which is scheduled for Saturday, January 19, 2013 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. The facilitator for the retreat will be Mr. David O'Brien of Work Choice Solutions.

There were three police officers hired and will begin the academy in March, 2013. However, there are a number of vacancies after recent retirements/injuries; the department continues to be aggressive in recruiting. In addition, there are approximately 20 officers who are in the early stage for eligibility to retire in the next 4 years. In conjunction with Human Resources, the Police Department will discuss strategies in creating a pool to hire veteran officers. The two current vacancies for the position of Sergeant will be posted internally.

There is an authorized staffing level of 50 sworn officers. There have been discussions with the Town Manager and Chief of Police regarding advocacy for overstaffing at 52 sworn officers with the intention that it will ensure safety in numbers at all times without affecting the budget bottom line.

Mr. Chapman also mentioned the issue with taxes on solar panels for commercial properties. A determination of Council or the Assessor's office should be made clear regarding the recommendation to approve or further discuss this issue.

Mr. Chapman and Mayor Schulman will set up a meeting with a representative from an energy subsidiary to discuss commercial and industrial energy savings.

Adjournment

It was moved by Councilor Gamble, seconded by Councilor DeLorenzo to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

